



Award-winning author-illustrator, JOYCE WAN, designed her first greeting card when she was in first grade for a city-wide greeting card design contest. The design won first place and was subsequently sold through a major department store chain. Twenty years later, that design would inspire a line of greeting cards and eventually a design studio called Wanart whose products featuring Joyce's designs are now sold in boutiques and gift shops worldwide. She has published over 25 books for children including the best-selling YOU ARE MY CUPCAKE. Her books have sold over one million copies worldwide. Joyce is inspired by Japanese pop culture, modern architecture, and things that make her smile. She currently lives in New Jersey with her husband and daughter.

Joyce is the recipient of the prestigious Mills-Tannenbaum Award from Reach Out and Read of Greater New York. She was also twice chosen to be featured at the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show which showcases original art from the year's best children's books (2011, 2016).

Visit Joyce online at:

Website www.wanart.com

Instagram [@joycewanbooks](https://www.instagram.com/joycewanbooks)

Twitter [@joycewanbooks](https://twitter.com/joycewanbooks)

Facebook www.facebook.com/joycewanbooks



publishing credits



DREAM BIG

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2019

YOU ARE MY MAGICAL UNICORN

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2018

- an Amazon Best Children's Books of 2019 So Far selection

YOU ARE MY SWEETHEART

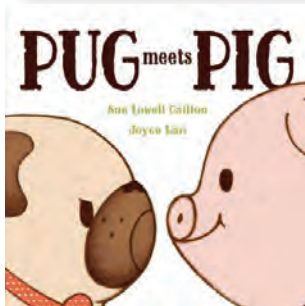
by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2018

THE BEAR IN MY BED

by Joyce Wan | Macmillan | Farrar Straus and Giroux | 2018

COUNT MY CUPCAKES 123

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2018



PEEP & EGG: I'M NOT USING THE POTTY

by Laura Gehl, illus by Joyce Wan

Macmillan | Farrar, Straus and Giroux | 2018

PEEP & EGG: I'M NOT TAKING A BATH

by Laura Gehl, illus by Joyce Wan

Macmillan | Farrar, Straus and Giroux | 2017



PUG MEETS PIG: TRICK-OR-TREAT

by Sue Gallion, illus by Joyce Wan

Simon & Schuster | Beach Lane Books | 2017

YOU ARE MY MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2016



PEEP & EGG: I'M NOT TRICK OR TREATING

by Laura Gehl, illus by Joyce Wan

Macmillan | Farrar, Straus and Giroux | 2016

YOU ARE MY PUMPKIN

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2016

PEEP & EGG: I'M NOT HATCHING

by Laura Gehl, illus by Joyce Wan

Macmillan | Farrar, Straus and Giroux | 2016

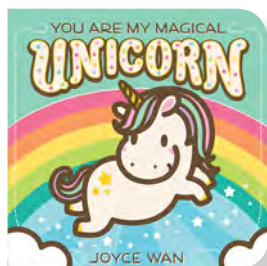


PUG MEETS PIG

by Sue Gallion, illus by Joyce Wan | S&S | Beach Lane Books | 2016

- featured in the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show, 2016
- winner of the 2018 Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award

publishing credits



THE WHALE IN MY SWIMMING POOL

by Joyce Wan | Macmillan | Farrar Straus and Giroux | 2015

- a Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center's top 25 selection
- a Scholastic Book Club Pick
- a Junior Library Guild (JLG) 2015 selection
- a Bank Street Best Book of the Year 2016
- featured in *The New York Times* Sunday Book Review

PEEK-A-BOO ZOO

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2015

PEEK-A-BOO FARM

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2015



ARE YOU MY MOMMY?

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2014

SLEEPYHEADS

by Sandra Howatt, illus by Joyce Wan
Simon & Schuster | Beach Lane Books | 2014

- a CCBC Choice selection for 2015
- a *Kirkus* starred review



MY LUCKY LITTLE DRAGON

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2014

WHAT AM I? FROG & FRIENDS

by Joyce Wan | Penguin Random House | Price Stern Sloan | 2013

- featured on PARENTS parents.com blog as an editor favorite



WHAT AM I? OWL & FRIENDS

by Joyce Wan | Penguin Random House | Price Stern Sloan | 2013

HUG YOU, KISS YOU, LOVE YOU

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2013

WE BELONG TOGETHER

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2011

- featured in the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show, 2011
- featured on Coolmompicks.com blog as "The perfect board book for baby's first Valentine"



YOU ARE MY CUPCAKE

by Joyce Wan | Scholastic | Cartwheel Books | 2011

GREETINGS FROM KIWI AND PEAR

by Joyce Wan | Blue Apple | 2009

B

BARNARD
MAGAZINE

FALL 2019

Dreaming Big Joyce Wan '00

When she walked through Barnard's wrought-iron gates for the first time as a student in 1996, Joyce Wan '00 was convinced she wanted to become an architect. Indeed, during her time on campus, she interned at various architectural firms and at one of them got her first full-time job out of college.

But she also had another dream, too, one that had been with her since childhood: to become an illustrator. When she was in first grade, she won a citywide greeting card design contest, and the card was sold through a major department store chain. The excitement of that experience never faded. So, in 2003, at age 25, Wan mustered up the courage to follow her deepest passion and started her own design studio, Wanart, while still working her day job. Two years later, she took on the studio full-time.

Wan began making greeting cards again. But her biggest success has come from books for very young children. Since 2009, Wan has published more than two dozen picture books, including *You Are My Magical Unicorn*, *The Whale in My Swimming Pool*, and *My Lucky Little Dragon*.

Her new board book, *Dream Big*, aligns with Barnard's core values. Featuring tributes to 15 female icons and trailblazers, including civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, mountaineer Junko Tabei, painter Frida Kahlo, aviator Amelia Earhart, and



architect Zaha Hadid, the book explores the many ways one can dream and achieve.

Wan was inspired to create *Dream Big* after fellow Seven Sisters alumna Hillary Clinton lost the historic 2016 presidential election. In Clinton's concession speech, she reminded young girls and women across the nation to never give up on their dreams, and Wan wanted to make those sentiments manifest in a children's picture book. "My gut reaction," she says, "was to go do the one thing I knew where I could make the most impact, which was to create a book in the hope that it inspires all of our daughters — and anyone reading it, for that matter — to look at the achievements of great women who came before us and be empowered to achieve anything these readers want."

Wan's experiences at Barnard play a part in this story, too. So many courageous and inspiring women at the College helped bring out the best version of herself, she says, crediting especially her senior-year suitemates — Melanie Lau, Kristine Chung, Risa Ohara, and Masumi Takamizu — who have always been among her biggest cheerleaders.

That support has allowed her, like the women in her new board book, to dream big and become an inspiration, too. ●
—Sarah Kim '17

Joyce Wan www.wanart.com

For more info please contact
Teresa Kietlinski | 973.818.8593
teresa@bookmarkliterary.com
www.bookmarkliterary.com

The New York Times Book Review

Excerpt from

Gary Clement's 'Swimming, Swimming,' and More

By EMILY JENKINS
Fri., May 29 | 2015

In Joyce Wan's "The Whale in My Swimming Pool," a tiny Asian-American-looking hero finds an enormous and recalcitrant blue whale in his tiny backyard kiddie pool. The setting is suburban. Roses bloom, bees buzz. Bluebirds look on merrily. The whale will not get out of the pool. The boy wants it out. This is a classic problem. Never has a young child shared anything so awesome as a kiddie pool completely without conflict. First, the boy counts to 10. He tells the whale it "better be gone!" Nope. It's still there. Then he pushes it. It doesn't budge. "Why not the pool next door?" he asks. "They have the best pool on the block!" The whale doesn't answer, but an aerial view shows us that a great white shark now inhabits the neighbor's pool.

The boy's attempts at a solution get more and more inventive, but the whale remains where it is, smiling sweetly even through the hero's temper tantrum. Finally, they achieve harmony when the whale begins to spout water, and the boy cools off in the spray. Wan's book imagines the pool as property over which a child feels ownership — and explores the whale-size challenges of sharing space and toys, for little ones.

Wan is a greeting card designer and the creator of many board books. Her curvilinear and comforting style recalls Hello Kitty and other Japanese pop art in its fat dark lines and squat characters, but the hero has an antic physicality and a wide range of emotional expressions. Her world feels safe and joyful, even as the hero experiences anger and frustration.

THE WHALE IN MY SWIMMING POOL

Written and illustrated by Joyce Wan

32 pp. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. \$17.99. (Picture book; ages 3 to 7)



Santa Claus Fund: Author moved by her book being included in gift boxes

Joyce Wan experienced a “circle of life” moment as she was reminded of the gift boxes she received as a child growing up in Boston.

By SADIYA ANSARI Staff Reporter
Sun., Dec. 14 | 2014

When Joyce Wan heard her children’s book *We Belong Together* was included in one of the Star’s Santa Claus Fund gift boxes this year, her eyes filled with tears.

For her, it’s an unexpected way to share the kindness she received as a child with others.

Wan experienced a “circle of life” moment as she was reminded of the gift boxes she received as a child growing up in the inner city through a similar program in Boston, for kids who might not receive much else during the holidays.

“It was truly like Christmas morning when that box showed up on our doorstep,” said the 36-year-old illustrator and author.

This year, the Star’s Santa Claus Fund will deliver 45,000 gift boxes to underprivileged children 12 and younger across Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Ajax and Pickering. There is a box for each age, up to 12 years old. Each box contains a book, a toy, warm clothing, candy, and for those 4 and up, a toothbrush and toothpaste.

Wan’s *We Belong Together* is one of three books included in the 3,420 boxes that will be distributed to 1-year-olds.

Books for each box are carefully chosen by Barbara Mrozek, director of Toronto Star Charities and Philanthropy. She looks for books that are educational, age-appropriate and beneficial for the development of motor skills. Of course, they should also have a great story.

We Belong Together appealed because it helps kids identify natural pairs using playful examples like peanut butter and jelly, and hot cocoa and marshmallows.

“Each page offered simple wording and

contained adorable caricatures to capture a 1-year-old’s attention,” said Mrozek.

Picture books are particularly important to Wan because, although neither of her parents spoke English, her mother took Wan and her three siblings to the library every week.

“A lot of my creative inclination started with picture books — being exposed to all those beautiful pictures as a young child,” said Wan.

Since her mother couldn’t read to her, they would look at the illustrations and make up stories together. In an essay on her love for picture books, Wan describes those moments as her mother’s “greatest gift” to her.

“Growing up in rough inner-city housing projects, picture books provided me with a safe refuge and possibilities of adventure, beauty, wonder and humour,” wrote Wan.

Wan grew up in a government-subsidized
cont.



An 1985 family holiday photo of Joyce Wan’s family taken at the Art Institute of Boston.

brick row house in Boston's south end in the 1980s. She describes it as "gritty," recalling the cockroaches and mice that roamed her childhood home, but said her parents didn't have much choice.

"They were going to take whatever they would get," she said.

Hers was one of the few Chinese families in a predominantly Hispanic neighbourhood. Wan vividly remembers the racial slurs and "Chinese noises" hurled at her on the street.

"Dealing with that every day, it was really tough," she said.

She went to school in Roxbury and Dorchester, some of Boston's rougher neighbourhoods at the time, until her family moved out of the city to be closer to a small Chinese takeout restaurant her parents started.

Wan's father first entered the country in the mid-1960s as an undocumented immigrant, slipping into New York when the merchant ship he was working on docked there.

"Somehow he found his way to Boston and a dear old lady took him in," Wan said.

Growing up, Wan called the woman who let her father sleep in her storage room "Grandma."

Her father left the U.S. again years later to travel to Hong Kong to find a wife. The couple moved back to Boston in 1976 and started a family.

Despite the challenges she faced early in life, Wan went on to study architecture at Barnard College, funded by student loans and the school's generous financial aid program. Wan pursued architecture because it was the "practical thing to do," but after a few years, she found the career unfulfilling.

She started designing greeting cards while looking for a creative outlet and eventually made it her full-time job. After distributing them on her own for five years, she was approached by a publisher to create a children's book.

"It's an honour and privilege to do this every day," she said.

Reflecting back on the books from her childhood, Wan says some of the few books she owned came from the box she received from the *Boston Globe*.

There are thousands of children in need, as Wan once was, across the GTA. She hopes those kids, including those who will receive her book in their Santa Claus Fund box, realize that "anything is really possible."

"You've just got to work hard and don't give up," said Wan.

If you have been touched by the Santa Claus Fund or have a story to tell, please email santaclausfund@thestar.ca.

GOAL: \$1.6 million

To date: \$1,189,775

To donate: For secure online donations, please go to thestar.com/santaclausfund.

Visa, AMEX, Discover and MasterCard: Dial 416-869-4847.

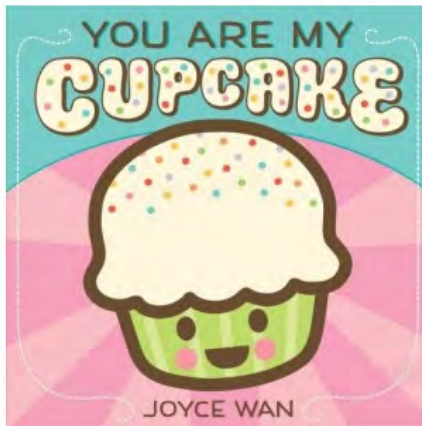
Cheques: Please send to the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund, One Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M5E 1E6.

https://www.thestar.com/initiatives/santa_claus_fund/2014/12/14/santa_claus_fund_author_moved_by_her_book_being_included_in_gift_boxes.html



WHY PICTURE BOOKS ARE IMPORTANT by Joyce Wan

by DIANNE DE LAS CASAS on NOVEMBER 29 | 2012



When I was young, my mom could not speak English but she took me to the library every week without fail. Although she was unable to read to me, picture books enabled us to enjoy the pictures and make up stories together. This would end up being one of her greatest gifts to me—the gift of imagination and creativity ignited by picture books.

As I learned to read, the combination of words and pictures completely immersed me into new worlds. Growing up in rough inner-city housing projects, picture books provided me with a safe refuge and possibilities of adventure, beauty, wonder, and humor. It was a doorway to the richness of the world and gave me hope and inspiration. It was where imagination bloomed and anything was possible. It is this spirit that I attribute all my successes to and which guides me in everything I do to this day.

Picture books empower the underprivileged and give hope to the voiceless. They have the power to capture your heart and transform your soul. They are the first interaction we have with books and that initial connection creates a ripple effect that lasts a lifetime and for generations to come.

ABOUT JOYCE WAN

Joyce is the author and illustrator of *Greetings from Kiwi and Pear* (Blue Apple Books | 2009), *You Are My Cupcake* (Cartwheel Books | 2011), *We Belong Together* (Cartwheel Books | 2011) and has six more books underway. *We Belong Together* was 1 of 150 books nationwide to be featured in the Society of Illustrators 2011 Original Art Show, an exhibit that showcases the year's best children's books. She also owns a stationery and gift company called Wanart, and teaches courses on greeting card design and art licensing at New York's School of Visual Arts helping others pursue their creative passions. Through all her work, Joyce hopes to inspire people to embrace the spirit of childhood and follow their dreams. Visit Joyce online at wanart.com

<http://picturebookmonth.com/2012/11/why-picture-books-are-important-by-joyce-wan/>